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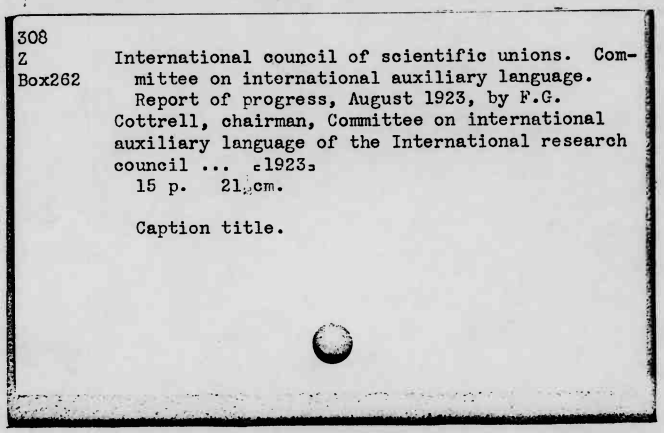
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International Auxiliary Language Association in the United States
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REPORT OF PROGRESS, AUGUST 1923

By F. G. Cottrell, Chairman

COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL AUXILIARY LANGUAGE

OF THE

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

1701 MASSACHUSETTS AVE.
WASHINGTON, D. C.

308
B6-262

Out of all the marvelous growth of modern discovery and invention it is the developments in means of communication that are most powerfully affecting the world trend of human affairs. We are entering an era of real world contact and consciousness, not because man in his essential nature has reached a new stage of development, but simply because as a result of indefatigable research, experimentation and standardization we have at length been provided with the necessary material tools. Land, water and aerial transportation, printing and the postal service, the telegraph, cable, telephone and finally radio have made world communication not only swift, easy and practicable, but the dominant factor of the age.

In face of the effort spent on the development of these material aids to human communication and the splendid results achieved we can hardly do otherwise than stand aghast when we consider that in all the world's universities and research institutions language itself is still looked upon purely from the historical aspect as something handed down from antiquity and that even to parallel it experimentally with scientifically constructed systems of our own devising is considered a foolish waste of time not to say down right sacrilegious.

Our general attitude, and particularly that of the professional linguist, toward the subject has been much that of the old Egyptians and of their priesthood toward experimental medicine; or it might be compared to that of the public in general and scientists in particular toward the problem of aviation no longer ago than the time of Prof. Langley's now famous experiments in 1903 when it seemed to be almost universally conceded that man would never fly because this would necessitate improving on nature.

The one bright spot in this otherwise dark picture is our general adoption of stenography, which true to form in the beginning brought the usual ridicule to Pitman and its other champions despite the fact that it had been used at least sporadically in crude forms as far back as the scribes who took down Caesar's and Cicero's speeches in the Roman Forum.

The project of an auxiliary language may be looked upon as analogous to that of stenography, *i. e.*, as a development of a special tool for special purposes, which has no more bearing on the use and spread of existing national languages than stenography has had on that of printing and longhand. Probably the greatest difference in the two projects as affecting their practical introduction, lies in the fact that for the purposes of stenography it is relatively unimportant how many different systems are in general use since each writer usually transcribes his own notes; whereas the primary utility of an international language is destroyed if essential agreement cannot be reached and effort is consequently scattered among rival projects. Herein lies the importance of the present movement to secure unified action.

Before the World War the subject of an international auxiliary language had received much study and development from voluntary private groups such as the Esperantists, Idists and Latinists but it is only since the war that it has begun definitely to attract widespread, serious

INTERNATIONAL AUXILIARY LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION

MEMORIAL
ON
WORLD COMMUNICATION

Please read carefully this memorial prepared and endorsed by the following advisory committee of the International Auxiliary Language Association in the United States, Incorporated:

GENERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

JOHN JOSEPH CARTY, 195 Broadway, New York City.
FREDERICK GARDNER COTTRELL, National Research Council, Washington, D. C.
MRS. JAMES STEWART CUSHMAN, 815 Fifth Avenue, New York City.
JOHN HUSTON FINLEY, The New York Times, New York City.
ARTHUR ARTON HAMERSCHLAG, 4040 Bigelow Boulevard, Pittsburgh, Pa.
JAMES GUTHRIE HARBORD, 233 Broadway, New York City.
CLARENCE HENRY HOWARD, Pierce Building, St. Louis, Missouri.
FREDERICK PAUL KEPPEL, 522 Fifth Avenue, New York City.
MRS. JAMES LEES LAIDLAW, 60 East 66th Street, New York City.
WILLIAM LAWRENCE, 122 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts.
SIDNEY EDWARD MEZES, College of the City of New York, New York City.
ARTHUR ERNEST MORGAN, Antioch College, Yellow Springs, Ohio.
MRS. DAVE HENNEN MORRIS, 19 East 70th Street, New York City.
MRS. CHARLES LEWIS TIFFANY, 43 Park Avenue, New York City.

The memorial will eventually be used as a backing for appeals to governments, organizations and individuals for action and funds to further the objects therein defined.

OFFICERS

President, EARLE B. BABCOCK
Vice-President, JOHN J. CARTY
Secretary, HERBERT N. SHENTON
Treasurer, DAVE H. MORRIS

Correspondence should be addressed to

HERBERT N. SHENTON,
Secretary I A L A,
Columbia University,
New York City.

In 1924 the Memorial was revised as follows:-

MEMORIAL

Whereas, Civilization is ever becoming more dependent upon systems of communication which, through the mail, press, camera, phonograph, telephone, cable and radio, facilitate interchange of thought between all peoples; and

Whereas, Scientific, sociological and economic developments throughout the world require a common linguistic medium to complete the effectiveness of these material agencies of communication; and

Whereas, Better understanding often results from free interchange of ideas; and

Whereas, A great obstacle to intercommunication between men and women of different nations is the barrier of language; therefore be it

Resolved, That in the opinion of the undersigned an international auxiliary language should be established to provide a means for easier communication between people of divers mother-tongues, whether by the adoption or modification of a synthetic or a classical language or by the creation of a new language; and be it further

Resolved, That we, the undersigned, heartily endorse the purpose of the International Auxiliary Language Association

1. To promote widespread study, discussion and publicity of all questions involved in the establishment of an auxiliary language, together with research and experiment that may hasten such establishment in an intelligent manner and on stable foundations.

2. To work for governmental recognition of the problem and for the creation of an international commission of experts fully representative of the issues involved who shall study the question from every angle and finally shall recommend to the governments of the world an auxiliary language for official adoption as well as the steps necessary for its effective introduction.

3. To further in every possible way the recommendations of such commission through stimulus to and co-operation with departments of government, institutions of learning and commercial, labor, scientific and humanistic organizations throughout the world.

attention from governments, educational authorities and powerful scientific and commercial organizations.

Early evidence of this is found in the chapter on "Artificial Languages" in the report of the parliamentary "Committee on the Position of Modern Languages in the Educational System of Great Britain," April 1918, where the need of a broad and fundamental study of this subject is pointed out and recommendation made that a special committee or commission be appointed for the purpose.

In the fall of the following year the International Research Council partly under the stimulus of the British committee report appointed a committee of its own "to investigate and report to it the present status and possible outlook of the general problem of an international auxiliary language" and "to cooperate in its studies with other organizations engaged in the same work."

As a result of this have since come similar cooperating committees in the American, British, French and Italian Associations for the Advancement of Science, in the American Council on Education, American Council of Learned Societies, British Classical Association, American Classical League, American Philological Association, and National Research Council (U. S. A.), several of which have already issued interesting reports on the subject.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science has recently established a new section on Linguistic Science. At its meeting in Boston last December Prof. Christian A. Ruckmick reported[1] on an experiment in the Department of Pyschology at Wellesley College where he conducted with a volunteer class of about three hundred students a course of six lessons in Danish and six in Esperanto to determine the relative ease of learning an ethnic and a synthetic language and as a first step toward working out accurate statistical methods and

[1] Copies of Prof. Ruckmick's report may be obtained at 10 cents per copy from the Esperanto Association of North America, 507 Pierce Bldg., Copley Square, Boston, Mass.

technique for the comparison of languages and language elements in this respect.

With the gradual extension of this line of experimentation in other institutions of learning throughout the world so as to cover a wide range both of languages and of students of diverse mother tongues there should rapidly accumulate the necessary data for a thoroughly scientific and impersonal study and eventual determination of a standard form of auxiliary language for official international adoption.

Just here should be emphasized how unmistakably past failures to obtain this final goal of official recognition teach us the absolute necessity for patience and a most thoroughgoing educational campaign among certain elements of the community before final official decisions should be sought for.

Probably the most significant indication of the rapidly growing demand in this direction is the official recognition given to the problem by the League of Nations, which during the meeting of the Assembly in September 1921, on motion of the representatives of twelve states [2] referred the question of the teaching of Esperanto in the common schools to a committee [3] on agenda for the 1922 meeting of the Assembly. The Committee in making its report said;—"The above mentioned delegates have proposed the introduction of Esperanto as an auxiliary international language into public schools, in order to facilitate direct intercourse between all nations throughout the world.

"*The Committee are of the opinion that this question, in which an ever increasing number of great states are interested should be attentively studied before it can be dealt with by the Assembly.* The question was referred to a committee last

[2] Lord Robert Cecil (South Africa); Jonnesco (Rumania); Emir Zoka-Ed-Dovleh (Persia); La Fontaine (Belgium); Benes (Czecho-Slovakia); Restrepo (Columbia); Tsai-Fou-Tang (China); Enckell (Finland); Fan Noli (Albania); Adatei (Japan); Escalante (Venezuela); Maharajah Knengarje (India); Askenazi (Poland).

[3] Lord Robert Cecil (South Africa) Chairman; Restrepo (Columbia); Schanzer (Italy); Tsai-Fou-Tang (China); de la Torriente (Cuba); Trygger (Sweden); Viviani (France).

year and a short report was submitted recommending that the Secretariat of the League should investigate the experiments already made and ascertain the actual results attained.

"The Committee proposes *that the question should be placed on the Agenda of the next Assembly* and that the Secretariat of the League should in the meantime prepare a complete report, accompanied by the necessary documentation on the line indicated in the draft resolution."

This report of the Committee was unanimously adopted, and in accordance therewith the Secretariat of the League prepared a very comprehensive report on "Esperanto as an International Auxiliary Language." The subject occupied the Fifth Committee of the Assembly for the whole of three sessions on September 12, 13, and 14, 1922 and on September 21, the report was adopted by the Assembly [4] together with a resolution "that questions relating to the teaching of Esperanto be referred to the Committee on Intellectual Cooperation in order that that Committee may give its opinion on the various aspects of the problem of an international auxiliary language," thus clearly indicating the League's intention to approach the problem from a broad standpoint.

One of the latest and most suggestive demonstrations of the practicability as well as the growing interest in the use of a synthetic language for every day purposes is furnished by a commercial conference [5] which occurred at Venice last April and in which all sessions, after the opening addresses in Italian, were conducted exclusively

[4] Copies of the report may be obtained at 15 cents per copy including postage either from the League at Geneva or from its American representative for publications the World Peace Foundation, 40 Mt. Vernon Street, Boston, 9, Mass.

[5] Copies of the report of the Venice Commercial Conference either in English or Esperanto may be obtained from the Esperanto Association of North America, 507 Pierce Bldg., Copley Square, Boston, Mass., at 15 cents per copy or from the British Esperanto Association, 17 Hart St., London, W. C. 1 at 6d. per copy. Editions in other languages may also be secured through the Universal Esperanto Associo, 12 Blvd. de Theatre, Geneva, Switzerland.

in Esperanto. The report indicates that there were 150 delegates from 23 different countries representing 89 Chambers of Commerce, 30 Tourist Associations, 21 International Fairs and over 60 Industrial Federations. While the conference was specifically an Esperanto enterprise, it serves perfectly well to illustrate the general principle of the great saving of time and expense and avoidance of misunderstanding accomplished through the abolition of the usual tedium of interpretation and translation. Doubtless this same result could be obtained by the use of Ido or any other accepted synthetic language which had accumulated a sufficient following, but at present Esperanto has so many times the larger active following that in experiments and demonstrations where simple practicability is the chief point at issue, it naturally furnishes most of the illustrations.

It is the unanimous feeling on the part of the committees above referred to, as apparently also of those in responsible charge of the question in the League of Nations Secretariat that what is most needed at present is to secure the serious study of the subject by educational authorities and institutions throughout the world in close cooperation with commercial, technical, scientific, travel, religious, and other groups who would eventually have most direct need for such a medium of communication.

In order to further such a program, a series of meetings and conferences has recently been held in New York. The first of these was on March 21, 1923 at the residence of Mrs. John Henry Hammond, 9 East 91st Street, under the chairmanship of Dr. Frederick P. Keppel, President-elect of the Carnegie Corporation. The invitations were issued by a group of sponsors consisting of:

Dr. John Dewey
The Rev. Bayard Dodge
Dr. Stephen P. Duggan
Miss Mary Pearsall Field
Dr. John H. Finley
Mrs. Jackson Fleming
Dean Virginia C. Gildersleeve
Mrs. James Lees Laidlaw
Pres. Henry N. MacCracken
Pres. Sidney E. Mezes

Mr. Dave H. Morris
Dr. John R. Mott
Mrs. William J. Schieffelin
Miss Clara B. Spence
Mrs. Willard D. Straight
Mrs. Charles L. Tiffany.

These invitations went to a large number of people representing a wide range of public interests including education, welfare, commerce, religion, politics, letters and science. More than two hundred people were present, among them faculty and student delegates from the principal universities and private schools of New York City, and college and post-graduate students of thirty different nationalities. This meeting was mainly informational, and at it questionnaires were filled out by those who were desirous of following the work or willing to take part in various phases thereof. At its close the following resolutions were introduced by Mr. Percy S. Bullen, New York correspondent of the London *Daily Telegraph* and unanimously adopted:

"Resolved, that the practical interests of the public demand that serious and competent consideration be given the subject of an international language;

"That this can best be done under the auspices of one of the well established and recognized institutions for impartial research and dissemination of knowledge;

"That a committee be appointed by the Chairman to secure favorable action by such an institution and to report the results at a subsequent meeting or through the mails to those invited to today's meeting who signify their desire to follow the subject."

On the evening of March 23, 1923 a dinner and conference were held at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Dave H. Morris, 19 East 70th Street. Those who accepted the invitation and the organizatons with which they are connected were:

Miss Margaret Alexander, American Association for International Conciliation;

Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton Fish Armstrong, Council on Foreign Relations;
Dr. Henry A. Atkinson, Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America Committee on Relations with France and Belgium;
Mr. Lorne W. Barclay, Educational Department Boy Scouts of America;
Mr. Edgar White Burrill, Literary Vespers, Town Hall;
Mrs. Andrew Carnegie;
General and Mrs. John J. Carty, American Telephone and Telegraph Co.;
Miss Maria Bowen Chapin, Miss Chapin's School;
Mr. Walter Clark, National Health Council;
Dr. Frederick Gardner Cottrell, International Research Council;
Miss Mabel Cratty, National Board Young Women's Christian Associations;
Mr. and Mrs. John Daniels, English Speaking Union;
Prof. John Dewey, Columbia University and American Council of Learned Societies;
Mr. Walter R. Diack, National Young Men's Christian Association;
Prof. Charles H. Downer, Alliance-Française and College of the City of New York;
Dr. and Mrs. Stephen P. Duggan, Institute of International Education;
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Edmonds, Intercollegiate Cosmopolitan Club;
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Erskine Ely, League of Political Education;
Mr. and Mrs. Edwin R. Embree, Rockefeller Foundation;
Mr. and Mrs. John French, National Board Young Women's Christian Associations;
Dr. and Mrs. John H. Finley, New York Times;
Mr. and Mrs. Henry W. Fisher, American Institute of Electrical Engineers;
Dr. Christine Ladd Franklin, Columbia University;

Mr. and Mrs. John M. Glenn, Russell Sage Foundation;
Dr. Henry Haskell, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace;
Prof. and Mrs. Carleton Hayes, Columbia University;
Mrs. W. E. Hope;
Dr. and Mrs. Frederick P. Keppel, Carnegie Corporation;
Mrs. James Lees Laidlaw, Woman's Pro-League Council;
Dean James E. Lough, New York University;
Dr. and Mrs. Henry Goddard Leach, American-Scandinavian Foundation;
President and Mrs. Henry N. MacCracken, Vassar College;
Prof. Margaret E. Maltby, Barnard College;
Mr. Frank H. Mann, American Bible Association;
Mr. and Mrs. James G. McDonald, Foreign Policy Association;
Miss Christina Merriman, Foreign Policy Association;
President and Mrs. Sidney E. Mezes, College of the City of New York;
Prof. and Mrs. Paul Monroe, Teachers College, Columbia University;
President Arthur E. Morgan, Antioch College;
Miss Ruth Morgan, League of Women Voters;
Mr. and Mrs. Dave Hennen Morris;
Mr. Ward Nichols, International Research Council;
Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Osborn, Intercollegiate Cosmopolitan Club;
Prof. Michael I. Pupin, Columbia University;
Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Jay Schieffelin, Citizens Union;
Mrs. Mary K. Simkhovitch, New York Council for International Cooperation;
Dr. and Mrs. Albert Shaw, Review of Reviews;
Mr. James Speers, International Young Men's Christian Association, Student Volunteer Movement;
Miss Clara B. Spence, Miss Spence's School;
Mrs. Anna Garlin Spencer, Teachers College, Columbia University;

Mr. Graham Romeyn Taylor, American Association of Social Workers;
Prof. Henry A. Todd, Columbia University;
Mr. and Mrs. Charles L. Tiffany;
Prof. Lawrence Wilkins, Board of Education of New York City;
Dr. H. C. Washburn, Antioch College.

The speakers at this meeting were Mr. Dave H. Morris who gave words of welcome and introduced the chairman, Dr. John H. Finley, Associate Editor New York *Times*; Dr. Frederick G. Cottrell, Chairman Committee on International Auxiliary Language of the International Research Council; Dr. Stephen P. Duggan, Director of the Institute of International Education; General John J. Carty, Vice-President American Telephone and Telegraph Co., and President Sidney E. Mezes of the College of the City of New York. Mrs. James Lees Laidlaw, of the Woman's Pro-League Council, made a report of the meeting of March 21st and Mrs. William Jay Schieffelin presented the resolutions adopted at that meeting. The conference closed with the adoption of the following:

"Resolved, that we endorse the resolution passed at the International Auxiliary Language Meeting of March 21st, and offer our hearty cooperation in furthering the objects therein defined."

The next day an informal conference was held on ways and means for initiating work in pursuance of these resolutions and to discuss what part might be taken by schools and universities in promoting the international auxiliary language movement. The following persons were present:
Dean Earle B. Babcock, New York University Graduate School;
Prof. Allan P. Ball, Classical Languages, College of the City of New York;
Prof. Erfendorf Carr, Allen-Stevenson School;
Dr. Jane Carter, Classical Languages, Hunter College;

Miss Maria Bowen Chapin, Principal Miss Chapin's School;
Mrs. John O'Hara Cosgrove, Principal Lenox School;
Dr. Frederick G. Cottrell, International Research Council;
Prof. John L. Gerig, Assistant Director University Extension, Columbia University;
Dean Virginia C. Gildersleeve, Barnard College;
Prof. Anton de Haas, School of Business Administration, New York University;
President Arthur E. Morgan, Antioch College;
Mr. Dave H. Morris;
Mrs. Dave H. Morris;
Miss C. D. Neal, Secretary to Mrs. Morris;
Prof. A. H. Newhall, Assistant Head Master Browning School;
Mr. Ward Nichols, International Research Council;
Prof. G. N. Northrop, Principal Brearley School;
Prof. Henry A. Todd, Romance Languages, Columbia University;
Miss Katharine M. Wilkinson, Miss Chapin's School;
Miss Ella Woodyard, Institute of Educational Research, Teachers College.

The most striking features of this conference were the evident growth of interest in the subject on the part of those who had recently approached it for the first time and their surprise at the status it had already attained. Perhaps the most important outcome of the conference was the general agreement reached that the way to proceed was to take up in the universities and colleges the research aspects of the international auxiliary language question, and, as in part supplying observational material for such research, to endeavor to have introduced as optional subjects in some of the secondary or lower schools courses in a specific synthetic language such as Esperanto or Ido. It was felt that courses in such languages, where handled by competent teachers, could be made valuable to the pupils not alone by the mere utilitarian application

of the language itself but even more perhaps by awakening the language sense and interest of pupils whom our present methods fail to reach, this being a part of the experience of teachers in other countries strongly brought out in the official report of the League of Nations referred to above.

To follow up the plans suggested at these meetings, two committees on International Auxiliary Language are being formed.

The New York Chapter Committee has as its nucleus the following members:

Dr. Herbert N. Shenton, Department of Sociology, Columbia University, Acting Chairman;

Dean Earle B. Babcock, Professor Romance Languages and Literatures, New York University;

Mr. LeRoy E. Bowman, National Community Center Association;

Dr. Stephen P. Duggan, Director Institute of International Education;

Mr. Harry E. Edmonds, Director Intercollegiate Cosmopolitan Club;

Prof. Alfred N. Goldsmith, Director Research Department, Radio Corporation of America; Professor Engineering Department, College of the City of New York;

Mr. Dave H. Morris, 19 East 70th Street;

Miss Clara B. Spence, Principal Miss Spence's School.

The General Advisory Committee up to the present comprises the following members:

General John J. Carty, Vice-President American Telephone & Telegraph Co.;

Dr. Frederick G. Cottrell, International Research Council;

Mrs. James S. Cushman, World's Committee Young Women's Christian Association;

Dr. John H. Finley, Associate Editor New York *Times*;

Dr. Arthur A. Hamerschlag, President Research Corporation;

General James G. Harbord, President Radio Corporation of America;

Mr. Clarence H. Howard, International Chamber of Commerce;

Dr. Frederick P. Keppel, President-elect Carnegie Corporation;

Mrs. James Lees Laidlaw, Woman's Pro-League Council;

President Sidney E. Mezes, College of the City of New York;

Mrs. Dave H. Morris, National Board Young Women's Christian Association;

Mrs. Charles L. Tiffany, New York League of Women Voters.

Some tangible results have already been achieved through the work of the conferences and committees. Columbia University has included in its program of University Extension Courses for the Fall term a general course on International Auxiliary Languages and the Extension Division is willing to provide a course in Esperanto or Ido if a sufficient number of students apply for it. Antioch College in Ohio, Miss Mason's School in Tarrytown and Miss Spence's School in New York have planned full term courses in Esperanto for next winter. Three outline courses of six lessons each in Esperanto were given during May at Miss Chapin's School, the Intercollegiate Cosmopolitan Club and Miss Spence's School, with a total enrollment of sixty-two. The last was an invitation course, especially for Miss Spence's teachers, twenty-eight of whom volunteered to join, thus showing their interest in the work projected for next winter.

The most significant step thus far taken by these new committees is the adoption of the following Memorial as a program for their immediate activities. Copies are being circulated for personal signatures and for endorsement by organizations and will eventually be used for backing appeals to governments and individuals for action and funds. It is contemplated that several years and at least a million dollars will be needed to carry out the program.

MEMORIAL

Whereas, the civilization of the world is becoming more and more dependent upon the systems of intercommunication through which the people of one country are enabled to understand the thoughts and aspirations of other peoples, and whereas the progress of science and the arts has brought about the means by which the printed word, the spoken thought and the spread of ideas, through the postal system, electricity, photography, printing presses, telephones, cables, and radio instruments, are made accessible to the humblest inhabitants of even the most remote regions of the earth, and

Whereas, the leading nations of the world are at present considering plans for reducing the dangers of war, for the arbitration of disputes, for the widespread diffusion of culture in the arts and sciences and for the sociological and economic development of the world through the internationalization of commerce, of the fine arts, of the sciences and professions, and

Whereas, the greatest remaining obstacle at present to the interchange of ideas between men and women of different nations is the barrier of language, therefore, be it

Resolved, that in the opinion of the undersigned the day is at hand for establishing an international auxiliary language which shall provide the means for easy intercommunication between people of divers mother-tongues, whether by the adoption of one of the existing synthetic languages, as for example Esperanto, Ido, or modern Latin, or by the creation of a new language based in so far as may be found desirable upon these; and be it further

Resolved, that we the undersigned heartily endorse the purpose of the International Auxiliary Language Association

1. To promote widespread study, discussion and publicity of all questions involved in the establishment of an auxiliary language, together with research and experiment that may hasten such establishment in an intelligent manner and on stable foundations.
2. To work for governmental recognition of the problem and eventual creation of an international commission of experts fully representative of the issues involved to study the question from every angle and finally to recommend to the governments of the world the auxiliary language for official adoption and the steps necessary for its effective introduction.
3. To further in every possible way the recommendations of such commission through stimulus to and cooperation with departments of government, institutions of learning and commercial, labor, scientific, literary and humanistic organizations throughout the world.

The Committees will be glad to hear from anyone interested in the subject and to furnish such further information as is available. Communications should be addressed to the Secretary of the General Advisory Committee:

Herbert N. Shenton,
Kent Hall, Columbia University,
New York City.

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TITLE